

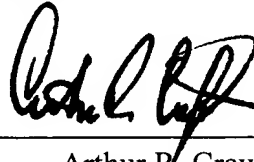
REMARKS

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format by removing improper multiple dependencies and to reduce initial filing fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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ORIGINAL CLAIMS SHOWING REVISIONS

3. (Amended) The DNA of [claims 1 or 2] claim 1, wherein the protein having a neoxanthin cleavage activity is selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 6, 10, 12, 14, or 16;
 - (b) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids in SEQ ID NOs: 2, 6, 10, 12, 14, or 16 are replaced, deleted, added, and/or inserted; and
 - (c) a protein encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 9, 11, 13, or 15 under the stringent condition.
4. (Amended) The DNA of [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the protein having a neoxanthin cleavage activity is derived from *Arabidopsis* plants.
5. (Amended) A transformant plant cell carrying the DNA of [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1.
8. (Amended) The transgenic plant of [claims 6 or 7] claim 6, wherein the expression of a gene encoding a protein having a neoxanthin cleavage activity is increased or decreased compared with its wild type.
9. (Amended) The transgenic plant of [any one of claims 6 to 8] claim 6, wherein the amount of abscisic acid is increased or decreased compared with its wild type.
10. (Amended) The transgenic plant of [any one of claims 6 to 9] claim 6, wherein stress tolerance is increased or decreased compared with its wild type.
11. (Amended) A propagation material for the transgenic plant of [any one of claims 6 to 10] claim 6.
12. (Amended) A vector comprising the DNA of [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1.

13. (Amended) A method for producing the transgenic plant carrying the DNA of claim 1 [of any one of claims 6 to 10], comprising the steps of introducing [a] said DNA of [any one of claims 1 to 4] into a plant cell and regenerating a plant from the plant cell.

14. (Amended) A method for increasing or decreasing stress tolerance in a plant, comprising expressing the DNA of [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 in a plant cell.